

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Suspect Tactics and Perimeter Containment (LAPD Name)
Airborne Operations Ground Officer Training (POST Name)
8 Hour Expanded Course Outline
1850-21850

Instructional Goal: To introduce students to current information regarding the tactics used by suspects attempting to avoid apprehension by both air and ground personnel and review the tactics and procedures of perimeter containment

Performance Objectives: Using lecture, video, group discussions, and perimeter debriefs the students will:

- Become familiar with suspect tactics currently being used
- Identify the proper containment procedures for video scenarios
- Gain an understanding of the skills needed to apprehend suspects during foot pursuits that result in perimeters

I. SUSPECT TACTICS AND PERIMETER CONTAINMENT OVERVIEW (60 min)

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Instructor(s)
 - 2. Experience
- B. Brief Overview of training goals and objectives
 - 1. Suspect tactics currently being used
 - 2. Containment procedures
 - 3. Apprehending suspects during foot pursuits that result in perimeters

C. **ICE BREAKER:** Suspect Tactics

Purpose: To provide students with the current tactic's suspects are using in foot pursuits

Procedures: Large group activity

- 1. **Show** "Point Break" foot pursuit video

The video is of a foot pursuit that has a great deal of "Hollywood" but does show several tactics used by suspects. It vividly illustrates the desperation that many suspects have in today's environment

- 2. Debrief the video
 - a. Discuss the suspect's and officer's tactics
 - 1) Many suspects are very desperate
 - 2) their actions show it
 - b. Point out that law enforcement tactics and techniques are constantly changing in order to be more effective and efficient. As law enforcement modifies their tactics so do suspects. Suspects are learning from their successes and failures and share what they've learned while in jail
- 3. Overview of suspect tactics trends since the 1980s

II. FOOT PURSUITS LEARNING ACTIVITY: (60 Min)

Purpose: To review the elements of foot pursuits

Procedures: Large group discussion

- A. Suspect's route of travel

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1. Path of least resistance
 2. Straight through the block
 3. Double-back has become a popular tactic
 4. Run until confronted as opposed to going to ground
- B. Foot pursuits with an air unit overhead
1. Stop and go, not a steady run
 2. Abrupt change of direction
 3. Moving on the back side of the orbit
 4. Use of tree cover
 5. Running between buildings
- C. **Show** video of foot pursuit

The video is of an armed robbery suspect running from officers with an air unit overhead. The suspect uses all of the previously discussed tactics

1. Discuss the suspect's tactics from the video
 - a. Stop and go
 - b. Abrupt change of direction
 - c. Moving on back side of orbit
 - d. Use of buildings for cover
 - e. Use of tree cover
 - f. Change of clothing
2. Discuss the officer's tactics
 - a. LAPD Training Bulletin Volume XXXV, Issue 17, July 2003 ¹
 - b. "Generally, officers should not split up during a foot pursuit."

III. PERIMETER IS ESTABLISHED LECTURETTE:

(120 min)

Procedure: In a large group the instructor will overview the steps once the perimeter is established

- A. Hiding locations
1. Inside and under vehicles
 2. Under houses
 3. In trash cans and bins
 4. Bushes and other landscaping
 5. Rooftops with tree cover
 6. Up in trees
 7. Sheds, garages, and other out buildings
 8. Water heater closets
 9. Inside dog houses
 10. In Jacuzzi with cover
 11. Under items leaning against walls and fences
 12. Between buildings that are very close together
 13. Inside a residence
 - a. Forced entry
 - b. Granted entry by resident
 - c. Bribery (common with bank robbery suspects)

¹ LAPD Training Bulletin Volume XXXV, Issue 17, July 2003

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- B. Tactics to exit containment
 - 1. Changing appearance
 - a. Talking off layers of clothing
 - b. Stealing clothing from wash line or laundry room
 - 2. Walk out and blend in
 - 3. Run out of perimeter
 - 4. Leave perimeter in a vehicle
 - a. Steal vehicle from within perimeter
 - b. Car jack a vehicle
 - c. Hide in a vehicle leaving the perimeter
 - d. Call a taxi into the perimeter for pick up
 - 5. Suspect's use of cell phones
 - a. Call in false tip or "help call" to 9-1-1
 - b. Call friend to pick them up
- C. Moving inside of the perimeter
 - 1. Suspects are not intimidated by air unit overhead
 - 2. Suspects are aware of the FLIR
 - 3. Move on back side of orbit
 - "If I can't see the helicopter, they can't see me"
 - 4. Use of buildings and tree cover to conceal movements
 - 5. Suspects often move slowly so as not to draw attention to themselves
 - 6. Yard switching during a K-9 search
 - a. Suspects moves from the yard he is hiding in as the search team enters the yard
 - b. Suspect returns to the after the search team exits

IV. PERIMETER CONTAINMENT *LECTURETTE*:

(60 min)

Procedure: In a large group the instructor will overview the elements of perimeter containment

- A. Definition of perimeter:

Webster: Outside line around an enclosed area. For purposes of law Enforcement, this is a containment of an area, large or small, by placing ground officers in a position which affords a clear view of all sides of the area. Inner and outer perimeters can be used one the same incident
- B. Foot Pursuit vs. Perimeter Containment
 - 1. Generally, officer should not split up during a foot pursuit²
 - 2. Apprehension Mode or Containment Mode
 - a. In Apprehension Mode
 - 1) Officer should remain together
 - 2) Potential of tying up with the suspect
 - 3) Officer must be able to render immediate aid to partner
 - b. In Containment Mode
 - 1) officers can separate a reasonable distance
 - 2) Officer must have reasonable line of sight with their partner
 - a) Distance
 - b) Experience
 - 3) Use of available cover

² LAPD Training Bulletin Volume XXXV, Issue 17, July 2003

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- 4) Short side of block
 - 5) If separated from partner must remain in containment mode
 - 6) No diagonal deployment
 - a) As you lose eye on your partner
- C. Upon arrival at scene
1. Are all officers accounted for?
 2. Set the perimeter as soon as possible
 3. Contact the officer who last observed the suspect
 - a. At night have the officer use his or her flashlight
 - b. During daylight hours, have the officer describe their position and wave
 4. Determine the size of the perimeter based on all the facts available
 - a. You can always decrease the size of the perimeter
 - b. For serious crimes, make the perimeter large
 - a. What is the suspect wanted for?
 - b. What are the available resources?
 - c. Seriousness of the crime is the key factor
 - d. All four corners must be set first, then mid-block
 - 1) Avoid setting half block perimeters
- D. Communication
1. Clear and concise
 2. Location, location, location
 3. Direction of travel
 4. Basic description of suspect
 5. What is the suspect wanted for?
 6. Is the suspect armed?
 7. Common Errors
 - a. "Code 6 with the following"
 - provide the location to ensure Communications division and responding unit know your location
 - b. "Seventy fifth street" vs "seven five Street"
 - if codes or abbreviations are used ensure that they are ones that are approved and common knowledge to avoid misunderstanding
 - c. Provide crime information for the arrived units and air unit as soon as possible
- E. After the perimeter is set
1. Control ingress and egress of all pedestrians and vehicles
 - Check trunks of all vehicles leaving the containment
 - Speak to all pedestrians leaving perimeter
 2. Remember the suspect tactics used to exit perimeters
 3. Remind ground units to report any significant observations
 - a. Motion lights illuminating
 - c. Noise
 - d. Witness statements
 4. Radio discipline is essential for a safe and successful conclusion
 5. Airship can assist ground units in selection of command post location
 - Should be outside of kill zone
 7. Evaluate what resources are required and available
 - a. K-9
 - b. SWAT
 - c. Additional units

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8. *Do not assume that a suspect is in a specific location without solid facts to support it*

F. Field Supervisor/Command Post Responsibilities

1. Meet with officers and get all the facts
2. Assess the need for a perimeter based on the facts
3. Establish a command post outside of the kill zone
4. Have a "Plan B" if suspect is not located inside of a location

V. AIR SUPPORT AS A RESOURCE

(60 min)

A. Foot pursuits under an air crew

1. Be prepared to set a perimeter around the entire block when you lose sight of the suspect
2. Direct units ahead of suspect to cut off route of travel
3. During darkness keep the night sun beam wide
4. Avoid using binoculars or FLIR until containment is established
5. Maintain calm communications with ground units
6. Avoid tunnel vision

B. If air crew arrives after officers lost sight of suspect

1. Learn as many facts as possible prior to arrival
2. Location, location, location
3. Direction of travel
4. Basic description of suspect
5. What is the suspect wanted for?
6. If the ground units are struggling with the streets, you can set the perimeter prior to arrival

C. Basic Forward Looking Infrared Information

1. What is FLIR
2. What it can do and can not do
3. Limitations of FLIR technology
4. FLIR and Officer safety

5. **LEARNING ACTIVITY:** FLIR videos

The FLIR videos all show suspects using different tactics to avoid apprehension

- a. **Show** the FLIR videos
- b. Discuss containment tactics
- c. Ask the students what containment tactics are appropriate for each scenario
- d. What things went right in each scenario based on the tactics learned?
- e. What could be done better in each scenario based on the tactics learned?

- Expected responses
 - 1) Size of perimeters
 - 2) Delay in setting perimeters
 - 3) Tunnel vision by officers
 - 4) Communication

VI. OFFICER DOWN- ISSUES and CONCERNS

(75 min)

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- A. Present and debrief officer down scenarios
 - 1. Officer Chuck Heim, Hollywood Division
 - a. Facts of the case
 - b. Officers made assumptions
 - c. Size of perimeter was incorrect for situation
 - 2. CHP Officer Rafael Casillas, Devonshire Division
 - a. Facts of the case
 - b. Officers made assumptions
 - c. Size of perimeter was incorrect for situation
 - 3. Officer Ricardo Lizarraga, Newton Division
 - a. Facts of the case
 - b. Supervisors made assumptions
 - c. Tactical Flight Officer made the correct choice of large containment
 - d. Suspect captured 3 blocks from shooting location inside perimeter
 - 4. Officer Sam Ryno and Sgt Howard Stevenson, Ceres CA Police Dept
 - a. Facts po the case
 - b. Show video of the incident
 - c. Large perimeter set despite very small department
 - d. Suspect located inside containment
- B. Emphasis on large containment areas for the most serious situations
 - 1. Officer down
 - 2. Serial criminals
 - 3. Murder and rape

VII. CLOSING: reinforce the block of instruction by reviewing key learning points **(45 min)**

- A. Being familiar with suspect tactics help you make sound tactical decisions for each situation
- B. Use of proper containment techniques increase chances of apprehending the suspect
- C. The size of the perimeter is very important in critical situations
- D. Remind officers of LAPD Training Bulletin on "Foot Pursuits"